

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3280

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: TRAVEL PLANS OF ROBERT J. HAWKE, PRESIDENT OF ALP AND ACTU

1. SUMMARY: ACTU PRESIDENT ROBERT J HAWKE HAS CANCELLED PREVIOUS PLANS TO ATTEND FORTHCOMING ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. HE WILL THUS HAVE MORE TIME IN LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY FOR USEFUL, EXPANDED PROGRAM IN U.S. EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS SET FORTH BELOW. END SUMMARY

2. TRAVEL PLANS OF ROBERT J. HAWKE , PRESIDENT OF ALP AND OF ACTU, HAVE CLARIFIED IN LAST FEW DAYS WITH CANCELLATION OF HIS PREVIOUS PLANS TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S SESSION OF ILO AT GENEVA. HE WILL HAVE TIME FOR SOMEWHAT BROADER U.S. PROGRAM IN JUNE. HAWKE, WHO IS OUTSPOKENLY PRO-ISRAELI, WAS WARNED BY ISRAELI EMBASSY IN CANBERRA THAT HIS PERSONAL SECURITY MIGHT BE IN DANGER IF HE WENT TO GENEVA, AND AUSTRALIAN SECURITY OFFICIALS MADE SAME COMMENT TO HIM.

3. HAWKE TOLD LABATT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY ACCEPT INVITATION TO ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS UNION IN MISSOURI DURING WEEK OF JUNE 24 AND SEEK SPECIFIC APPOINTMENT WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY AT SAME TIME. HE PRESENTLY PLANS TO SPEND FOLLOWING TWO WEEKS IN MEXICO BEFORE
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GOING TO UK TO ADDRESS DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S CONFERENCE

IN JULY, BUT WE THINK HE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO A MORE EXTENDED WASHINGTON AND U.S. PROGRAM THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION FROM DEPT AS TO PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING MORE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAM IN TIME FRAME OF LAST WEEK IN JUNE-FIRST WEEK IN JULY.

4. IN GENERAL TERMS, PERHAPS BEST KIND OF PROGRAM WOULD BE COMBINATION OF CALLS ON SENIOR OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR AND AFL-CIO , PLUS CALLS ON AMERICAN PROGRESSIVE INTELLECTUALS WHO TAKE RESPONSIBLE POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL FIELD, HAWKE, IN SPITE OF LIVELY AND SOMETIMES CRITICAL INTEREST IN U.S., HAS NOT MADE MUCH CONTACT WITH AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY. THERE IS OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF IDEAS IN THIS AREA. LABATT NOTES THAT HAWKE IS IN PLASTIC STATE AT MOMENT, MOVING NOTICEABLY TOWARDS U.S. POLICY POINTS OF VIEW, PARTICULARLY IN MID-EAST AND INDIAN OCEAN AREAS(HE HAS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING- IN PRIVATE ONLY- FOR OUR PROPOSED EXTENSIONS TO DIEGO GARCIA, FOR EXAMPLE).

5. LABATT SUGGESTS DEPT MIGHT CONSIDER STATE /LABOR MEETINGS BE ARRANGED FOR HAWKE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL. (FOR INSTANCE, AT LABOR WITH DEPT. SOLICITOR, WILLIAM KILBERG, WHO RECENTLY VISITED AUSTRALIA) ANOTHER POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE ARTHUR GOLDBERG , WHO SHARES HAWKE'S INTEREST IN LABOR AFFAIRS AND ISRAEL. WHILE WE LEAVE QUESTION TO DEPT, OTHER POSSIBILITIES MIGHT BE SENATORS SUCH AS BROOKE, MONDALE, KENNEDY, BAYH, JAVISTS, OR JACKSON, CONGRESSMEN SUCH AS BRADEMANS, CHISOLM, HAMILTON, FRASER OR VANDER JAGT, AND NATIONAL CHAIRMEN OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

6. LABATT CONSIDERS HAWKE IS A "TRAPPED INTELLECTUAL" WHOSE POSITION IN AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY AND AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS INVOLVES HIM IN DETAILED AND OFTEN DULL ISSUES OF WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS WHEN HIS REAL INTERESTS IN THE GREAT MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, HE IS A THOROUGHLY AMBITIOUS
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AND TALENTED- AS WELL AS EGOCENTRIC AND SOMEWHAT ERRATIC- POLITICAL LEADER WHO MAY YET ATTAIN PARTY AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.
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